

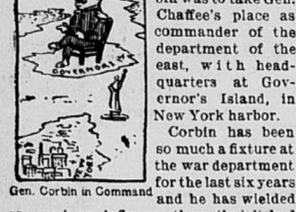
WASHINGTON GOSSIP

Why Gen. Corbin Leaves the Headquarters of the Army.

TOO BIG FOR A LITTLE JOB

The Adjutant General's Position No Longer of Great Importance—A Favorite Resort for Cranks—President's Avoidance.

Washington.—No more interesting piece of news has come out of the war department in a long time than the announcement made a few days ago that Adj. Gen. Corbin was to take Gen. Chaffee's place as commander of the department of the east, with headquarters at Governor's Island, in New York harbor.



Gen. Corbin in Command

so great an influence there that it had never occurred to anybody outside the department that he would have any other detail before his retirement, which comes now in about three years.

But the creation of the general staff has established a new order of things. The office of adjutant general is no longer the place of power it became during the period when the absurd fiction was maintained of a commanding general with ample title and no prerogative. The chief of staff under the new system becomes the guiding force of the military establishment, and Lieut. Gen. Young, the chief of staff, has taken the room so long occupied by Corbin immediately adjoining that of the secretary of war.

There is really very little for the adjutant general to do. He has become in effect the adjutant to the chief of staff, and Corbin is altogether too big a man, and has been the real thing in the army too long, to adjust himself gracefully to such an arrangement. So, with the hearty acquiescence of Gen. Young, who is a close and loyal friend, Corbin leaves the department to accept the most important subordinate command.

Corbin's Position.

This is said to be the first time in the history of the army that a staff officer has been given a command of great importance in the line, and for that reason, if for no other, it is memorable.

But Corbin is accustomed to figure in memorable events. As commander of the department of the east he will have under him more men than Schofield commanded as lieutenant general commanding the entire army, and he will have an opportunity to put into practice on a large scale some of the principles he has been preaching for years. Under him will come the greater portion of the coast fortifications, a problem which in itself is worthy of the best mind of a military genius. He will be directly in line also to succeed Chaffee when the latter retires from the lieutenant generalship of the army in 1906.

By virtue of rank Corbin would now be entitled to the lieutenant general's stars, but in view of the fact that his rank was gained in the staff, and of the further fact that his assumption of the rank would have barred Young and Chaffee, his seniors in years, but his juniors in rank, he waived any claim he might have had and gave the others a chance. Had he remained as adjutant general and been submerged in the general staff it is conceivable that he might have sunk out of sight by the time of Chaffee's retirement, but there is no such danger now.

Corbin will be about the last of the civil war veterans to retire from active service. There will be in three years nobody except himself and Gen. MacArthur left in the service of all the officers who saw service between 1861 and 1865 in any capacity.

Corbin's History.

Corbin's career has been one of brilliant success as a military administrator. Not since the civil war has any other officer made so great an impression upon the military establishment as he. And he has done it by the display of qualities which would have won him distinction anywhere.

He came to Washington in the time of Hayes, who knew him as an Ohio soldier and was greatly attracted to him as a young officer.

When Garfield came to the white house Corbin came into even closer and more confidential relations with the president, and was speedily recognized as a member of Garfield's kitchen cabinet. He was at that time regarded as a prince of politicians among military men, and he has never outgrown that reputation. It happened that he was very near the center of the

stage when the war with Spain broke out and as adjutant general he had an opportunity to impress himself upon still a third Ohio president. McKinley leaned on Corbin more than on any other military officer during the war with Spain, and after its close he and the adjutant general were inseparable companions.

Corbin was one of the men who never had to wait outside the white house door, no matter who might be within. His great tact and knowledge of men stood him in good stead, and his executive ability was largely responsible for whatever was done in 1898 to bring order out of the chaos of the war department.

He has made all his business for 30 years to get along with people without friction, and the only failure credited to him was in the case of Gen. Miles. Even that was not his fault. He could not get along with Miles simply because Miles would not get along with him and persisted in believing that Corbin, who started out as his friend, was trying to undermine him.

Cranks at the White House.

Cranks around the white house are no unusual thing. The prominence given to two or three lately is due simply to the lack of exciting news elsewhere. The truth is that hardly a day has passed in years without the arrest of one or more queer individuals who want to see the president. So far as the officers know none of these can be called dangerous any more than the average crank is dangerous. They are just a little turned in the upper story and they are either sent out of town to their friends or else deposited in the government asylum at St. Elizabeth, there to meditate on the indifference of the world to great ideas and to compare themselves to Galileo and other martyrs to the cause of mind.

Over 400 cranks were arrested at the white house last year and over 300 were arrested the year before. The arrest of any one of them might have been given a sensational significance if the proper coloring had only been supplied by an imaginative newspaper man, and with just as much reason as in the case of the poor devil who was hustled out of the white house vestibule a few days ago and broke a cab window in the attempt to get away from his captors.

The white house ushers are experts in this sort of thing. They can tell a crank on sight, and it is a very rare thing indeed for one of them to get by them even in a crowd. They recognize also that the variety of crank which comes to Washington is not dangerous as a rule. Most of the unfortunates have some patent or scheme upon which they have been working for years until they are mentally upset and conclude to come to the seat of government in order to get somebody in authority to recognize them. They swarm about the capitol and they are sized up for just about what they are worth.

The President's Health.

President Roosevelt came back to Washington in better condition physically than he has been at any time before since he has been in the white house. He is what the English call "fit." That is he is in the pink of health, without an ounce of superfluous flesh on his bones and with every muscle in prime order.

It is quite the fashion to print stories about the increase in weight and about his anxiety lest he should tip the scales at some extraordinary figure. One story went out from Oyster Bay that he weighed 226 pounds and was constantly growing, much to his disgust and alarm. Just why the figure was placed at 226 instead of 225 cannot be explained except on the theory that exact figures would add verisimilitude to an otherwise bald and unconvincing narrative. It can now be stated on the "very highest authority" that the president weighs 189 pounds and that he has not weighed any more than that this summer. In fact the president's weight has not varied more than two or three pounds since he entered the white house except on the occasions when he has been making long trips by rail. When he is off on a tour the lack of exercise and the constant temptation to eat tend to increase his weight, but even at the highest he has never run up to 200 pounds.

It is not a matter of far-reaching importance and the fate of the nation will not be affected one way or the other, but in the interest of historic accuracy it is just as well to make this right.

There is nothing in the president's mode of life to induce the acquirement of flesh. He is constantly on the move. It is rare that he remains seated for half an hour at a time. When he is in conversation he is constantly moving about. He gets as much exercise in meeting people and talking to them as the average man gets by regular constitutional and by practice with the dumb-bells. He works hard, but his hard work doesn't hurt him in the least.

LOUIS A. COOLEIDGE.

Use of Fur in Winter Fashions



FUR modes of the winter do not tend to entire garments but to combinations of fur with hand-made lace, filmy chiffon, painted velvet, oriental embroidery or jeweled passementerie.

Joseph's coat was a simple, modest article of wearing apparel compared with the medley of materials put together in any sort of fur garment this season. The most delicate evening wraps of rose petals and chiffon are trimmed with tails and medallions of heavy furs, and the heaviest fur collars for midwinter frosts are edged with ruffles of lace or bordered with flowers or lined with accordion plaited tulle.

Fur hats and neckties are already too widely fashionable to be regarded as a mere fad. They are and will be the final smart touch on every morning tailor gown, always combining from two to four kinds of fur, and sometimes half a dozen materials. To be well dressed this season one must have two or three fur or fur trimmed hats and a fur necktie or two, an Ascot or a four-in-hand, showing an extraordinary patchwork of materials, from beads to laces.

Entire fur hats are not a novelty. Hence they are not so fashionable as hats in which fur is combined with tulle or jeweled embroidery, or, newest of all, cloth of gold.

Cloth of gold and cloth of silver are showily used in hats, collars and mufflers this season with most astonishing effectiveness and dash. Combined with fur and embroidery, the effect is bizarre and

oriental; combined with blue or scarlet cloth, a very military though slightly dramatic touch is gained, which is most becoming to women with vivid hair and clear, colorless skin.

Moleskin is so far the fur fad of the season, just as squirrel was last year, and is often seen combined with squirrel, where ermine is a shade too extravagant. A very beautiful moleskin flat cape is entirely of scales of fur, the edge of each circle having a fringe of point de venise lace, very narrow.

Full lace ruchings edge the cape and there is a military trimming of moleskin chenille. A very flat muff is of moleskin scales, and the lower wide edge is fringed with lace and chenille. A hat of moleskin has a wide brim of crushed blue poppies, with a big white velvet bow resting on the hair at the back.

A very odd fur tie is in a flat scarf carefully fitted but not worn close about the throat, and with graduated stole fronts which reach the knees. Just where the scarf would tie one side is slashed and the other side drawn through just as a golf stock is managed at the back.

More often than not in the very dressy fur sets chiffon is the foundation goods rather than the trimming. A very deep cape of corn colored chiffon is trimmed with ruffles of marigold taffeta with a spiral design on the chiffon of narrow cable bands. A cluster of cable chenille ends hang from a sable clasp half way to the knees.

The muff looks like a section of an extremely fat banana. It is of full smoked chiffon edged with sable tails.

Winter Modes are Charming

THE authorities in the world of dress have at last achieved a great result, namely, the combination of grace with absolute comfort. That is to say, we no longer pull in our waists, nor when walking do we accommodate ourselves with a long skirt. We wear the lightest headgear and the cosiest and most comfortable outdoor wraps, so altogether satirical man has no reason to laugh at the pain and anguish a woman goes through to achieve modish success, for they simply do not exist.

Only a few years ago women of fashion were not only uncomfortably tight in the waist and arms, but they wore stiff, boned bodices as well as a hard, armor-like corset. They wore top-heavy and weighty hats which could not fall to produce a headache, and spent hours while a coiffeur screwed their hair into uncompromising, small plaits or sausage rolls.

Most surely have the leading exponents of dress and fashion changed all these absurdities. Nowadays the woman of fashion wears graceful clothes and becoming colorings.

She wears a high collar, but not a tight, stiff one, and above all, she has ample



room to breathe. She studies comfort and grace even before fashion, and as a consequence never did she look more beautiful or her clothes more attractive. The kilted skirt is certainly having a vogue, be it of tarian or the lightest and plainest of serges and homespuns. The equal distribution of weight always renders it an ideal and becoming short skirt, unless, of course, the wearer be too stout to look well in such a style. But even when I doubt if it really increases the size, because you must always remember the striped effect is a downward and not a horizontal one.



was kept severely plain, only finished with two folds at the hem. It was worn with a very smart cream bodice, with a pelerine collar of embroidered linen, disclosing a very deep yoke of heavy cream gurgure, fastened just above a swathed waistband of blue taffeta with two flat blue silk buttons. The sleeves were rather simple—three stitched plaits at the back, full just at the elbow, caught up with four little blue buttons and a tiny cuff of cream gurgure. The collar, by the way, was edged with a narrow silk fringe.

But our illustrations this time are for the younger misses, and let us turn to them for a moment. One of the models shown is intended for a girl of 15 or 16 years of age. It is a smart little French model dress, carried out in soft blue woolen stuff with a yoke, undersleeves and a vest of blue ribbon insertion, connected by white silk hair-pin stitching. On either side of the vest in the front there are buttons and loops of tarian silk. The sleeves are also trimmed with loops and buttons to correspond, while the skirt is finished with a kilted flounce.

The gown for a younger miss, which is shown in the illustration, is of a brown and white woolen material and arranged with a tucked front to the bodice and a kilted skirt. The bodice is ornamented very prettily with a semi-circular strapping of brown velvet and a trimming of cream insertion, through which narrow brown velvet ribbons are drawn, and then finished in front with small gold buttons.

ELLEN OSMONDE.

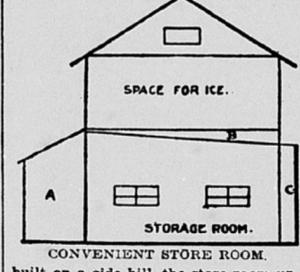


DAIRY STORAGE ROOM.

A Necessity Where Farmers Desire to Hold Butter and Cheese for Higher Prices.

Many farms are not provided with the right kind of dairy building, and when one undertakes to store butter for future sales they may have to take an inferior price for it. I was in a cellar the other day where the woman of the house had several hundred pounds stored, and to me the room smelled damp and musty. The chances are that this butter will smell of this must when it is put on the market. If it does, instead of her receiving the very highest fancy price she will have to take what she can get for it.

The writer has inspected a store room and ice house combined which is



built on a side hill, the store room under the ice house, and gives herewith a rough drawing of the end of the building. The building has a double roof. One for the ice to rest upon, which was loose enough for the drippings to work through and run off the second floor, which was watertight and on a slant, as shown by line B, and conducted the water away from the building through a spout made like an eavestrough, as shown in line C. The porch on the corner, A, is the entrance, and that part of it is a storm door—there being two other doors and walls before getting into the storage room proper. This makes it more easy to go in and out of it without affecting the temperature of the room. The building has a double roof, and the ends are provided with large windows just below the roof that give vent to the chamber above the ice, and the double roof protects it from the sun. The store room has plenty of light, it being well supplied with windows. But for fear you may get a wrong idea of this I will state that they are three deep, that is, three sash each, containing two thicknesses of glass, making in all six panes of glass and four air spaces between the outside and the inside of the room. With ice in the building, the lower room does not vary much in temperature any time during the summer, always remaining about 40 degrees above zero. With this kind of ice house one can keep butter almost as well as it is kept in cold storage plants.—E. F. Brown, in Epitomist.

DAIRY CROP ROTATION.

System Which Assures the Comfortable Keeping of 40 Cows on 65 Acres of Land.

Recently, in referring to a very productive section of Wisconsin, Hoard's Dairyman said that 65 acres of good tillable land would annually support 40 cows for dairy purposes. A correspondent from Ohio asked for a rotation of crops to adopt for this work in connection with corn, and the provisions for pasture, to which the Dairyman replied as follows: "There is probably just as good land in Ohio, but we are not sufficiently acquainted with Ohio conditions to justify a similar statement for every farm in that state. Given good land in Ohio, or elsewhere, we should depend very largely upon corn and alfalfa as the main crops, and devote very little acreage to pasture. We should expect to raise corn enough to fill silos and have considerable left over for cribbing. We should aim to keep a goodly number of hogs to take the skim milk to good advantage, and expect to use the money received for hogs in purchasing feed for the cows and other hogs. Alfalfa has not been recommended for a short rotation and we should therefore wait until more is learned about alfalfa, expect to grow some common clover, and, possibly, wheat, oats and barley. These, however, are questions that can only be fully answered when one is entirely conversant with the soil, climate and markets."

One Won, the Other Lost.

A few days ago two farmers came to town and both brought butter for sale. One of the farmers had his product pressed into neat, compact half-pound packages, and he readily sold it at 25 cents a pound. He said that he could not meet the demand for his butter. The other had his butter in a bucket, and it looked soft and watery. After tramping around town from place to place trying to sell, he gave up in disgust, and said it was no use to bring butter to town to sell, as nobody would buy it.—Rural World.

Salad Dressing.

Two-thirds cup milk, put in double boiler. When hot stir in one tablespoon of flour mixed with a little milk. Then add one-half cup vinegar, a very little red pepper, one and one-half teaspoons mustard and two-thirds cup sugar. Last add two well-beaten eggs and remove from fire.—Boston Globe.

GOOD ROADS SENSE.

Col. J. B. Killebrew Tells Why Farmers Should Favor Government Co-Operation.

The rapidity with which the sentiment in favor of national aid to the common roads of the country has spread, and the eagerness with which the proposition is welcomed since the introduction of the Brownlow bill in congress, have not only been highly gratifying to the friends of the measure, but surprising and astonishing to its opponents. The truth is the great body of the farmers of the land are slow in demanding what they are justly entitled to. Had the same necessity as the want of good roads among farmers existed in relation to the manufacturing, mining or commercial interests of the country, such a necessity would have long since been recognized and met by adequate appropriations from congress. The tillers of the soil do not work in concert for their own advancement. By the census of 1900 the whole number of people above the age of ten years engaged in gainful occupations in the United States was 29,074,117. Of this number 10,381,765 were engaged in agricultural pursuits. No other specified occupation employs so many. The manufacturing and mechanical pursuits employ 7,085,992 persons; trade and transportation, 4,766,964, and professional service, 1,258,739. And yet the farmers of the country, that contribute more to its permanent prosperity than all other classes combined, have the smallest amount of consideration in the matter of congressional appropriations. In all the history of the past legislation of the country but few efforts have been made to equalize the benefits of congressional appropriations. Until the rural mail routes were established a citizen living in the country rarely received direct benefits from the money expended by the general government, except that for the agricultural department.

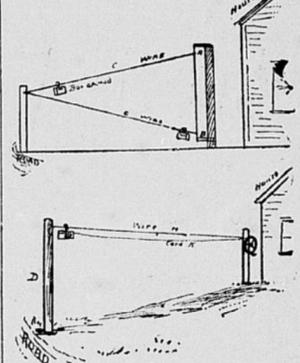
The commerce of the country felt the exuberance of fresh and lusty life and vigor from the improvement of the rivers and harbors, but this exuberance would have been vastly increased had half the money appropriated for rivers and harbors been applied to aid in the improvement and maintenance of the public roads, the very foundation of commerce.

It must not be imagined that anyone proposes that the government shall enter upon the work of building public highways without the cooperation of the state, county or other political subdivision. The policy of the government should be to help those communities that help themselves; to stimulate action and enterprise rather than to repress it by appropriating money to those communities that do nothing for themselves.

TRAVELING MAIL BOX.

Follow Instructions Here Given and Your Letters Will Come from Road to House.

Request is made for a device for running a mail box on wheels. If ground is level from point of delivery to house this diagram will send the box to and from the house. If you want the box at the road slip the wire up the post from B to A on the wire AB; when you



MAIL BOX ON WHEELS.

wish the mail to come to the house slip C down to B and it will come. If the house is uphill from the route near the house plant a post, and attach a wheel with a groove in its outer edge, with crank attached with a wire stretched up hill as H, and a cord K attached to mail box. When the box is wanted turn the crank to the right and the mail box, suspended on the wire by a pulley, will come to the house as prompt as a cow will come to her calf. It can be loaded and sent back. If the distance is too great for two posts more posts may be added. As to boys meddling with the mail box there should be no fears, as boys get tired of meddling with Uncle Sam's property.—Rural New Yorker.

Everything in Its Place.

The owner of a certain up-to-date farm here in the central west took up the farm as a homestead and has attained success entirely through his own efforts. He has posted up in a prominent place in each one of his buildings the following motto: "A place for everything and everything in its place." Needless to say every part of the farm, and every person who works on it shows the indirect influence of this motto. The tool and machine houses are in such order that no time need be lost in looking for implements. The rotation of the crops plainly shows the ever-present application of this motto. The home, the dairy, the orchard and the garden are all continual illustrations of its application. It is scarcely necessary to add that this farmer does not belong to the too long list of men who complain that farming doesn't pay.—Prairie Farmer.